

San Antonio-Class (LPD-17) Landing Assault Ship



The operational flexibility and capability of the naval expeditionary fleet will be significantly enhanced with the FY 2005 delivery of USS *San Antonio*, the first of 12 new landing assault ships. LPD-17 is the replacement for four classes of older ships—the LKA, LST, LSD-36, and LPD-4—and is being built with a 40-year expected service life. When construction is complete, the LPD-17 class ships will enable the Department of the Navy to move toward the fiscally constrained programmatic goal of 12 Amphibious Ready Groups (ARGs) capable of lifting 2.5 Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) Assault Echelons (AEs). Building the entire LPD-17 class of ships is critical to the aggregate amphibious lift

required to support our war plans. Additionally, LPD-17 cargo and aft vehicle stow capability will mitigate the loss of cargo space inherent in the LHA(R) design.

The *San Antonio*-class will incorporate advanced characteristics for amphibious warships. Each ship will have 699 enhanced berths for embarked Marines, plus a surge capacity of 101 berths. They also will have a vehicle-stowage capacity of 24,600 square feet, cargo-stowage capacity of more than 33,000 cubic feet, and a well deck sized for two Landing Craft Air Cushions (LCACs) or one Landing Craft Utility (LCU). Their flight decks will each be capable of supporting operations by two CH-53E Super Stallions, two MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft, or four CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters. The ships in the class will be outfitted with two Rolling Airframe Missile launchers for self-defense and will incorporate design features that present a significantly reduced radar cross-section compared to previous amphibious ships.

The LPD-17 class represents the Navy's commitment to recapitalization in the form of a modernized expeditionary fleet. As such, the Marine Corps supports the Navy's commitment to expeditiously complete the procurement and construction of this class of ships.